



DATE: September 17, 2012

TO: Kansas VFC Immunization Providers

FROM: Kansas Immunization - Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program

RE: Data Logger Temperature Monitoring

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) is excited to announce the implementation of data logger temperature monitoring for vaccine storage units. The use of data logger technology is a huge step forward in the best practices of vaccine storage and handling and KIP is looking forward to partnering with you, our VFC providers, to further enhance your practice in safeguarding Kansas citizens against vaccine preventable disease. KIP will begin implementation of the data loggers beginning in June 2012 and looks forward to working with you through this transition.

These data logging monitors are called TempTale4 units (TT4) and are a product of Sensitech, Inc. Sensitech supplies temperature recording devices worldwide to agencies that require the highest standards of quality, reliability and customer service. KIP is pleased to have Sensitech as our partner in this endeavor.

Data loggers collect vaccine storage unit temperature data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Data loggers allow for improved temperature accountability and will assist in decreasing the amount of wasted VFC vaccine due to unknown storage unit temperatures. Data loggers will also assist providers and KIP in assuring the storage units in use have stable temperatures and therefore, that viable vaccine is being administered to children.

KIP will begin a *phased in* approach of installation and training for VFC providers on the use of the TT4 monitors beginning June 2012. Sensitech, in collaboration with KIP, will perform this training for all VFC providers. After initial training, KIP and Sensitech will provide ongoing provider support and education to assure user proficiency and confidence with the TT4.

This outline is a brief synopsis of the *phase in* and implementation process. Sensitech will be providing more details over the course of the next few weeks as each clinic is scheduled for training.

1. Rima Hand, Solutions Engineer with Sensitech, will email each provider to schedule the clinic's training and implementation using a webinar format. Your clinic will be trained following receipt of the signed User Agreement.
 2. Sensitech will send 2 TT4 monitors to your clinic prior to the training. (NOTE: KIP will supply a maximum of 2 TT4 monitors per clinic since the cost of the monitors and data downloads is much greater than the costs of the digital units previously provided).
 3. Rima will be gathering information from each clinic that will assist in your training and implementation.
 4. *Each clinic wanting to install the data loggers will need to sign and return the Data Logger User Agreement to: Jackie Strecker: 1000 SW Jackson, Ste 075; Topeka, KS 66612; fax 785-296-6510; or, jstrecker@kdheks.gov.*
- Monitors cannot be sent to providers until this User Agreement is returned to KIP.

5. KIP will no longer supply digital thermometers for VFC providers.

The second Sensitech training will demonstrate how to download the monitors, alarmed monitors and reports. Sensitech will ask each provider to download newly installed monitors daily for 5-10 days to help the provider and KIP assess monitor placement, hot or cold spots or other issues that might compromise vaccine.

The following is a review of VFC protocol in vaccine temperature monitoring and a description of how the implementation of the data loggers will work with this process.

The Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) Vaccine for Children (VFC) program requires twice daily monitoring and recording of refrigerator and freezer temperatures, and monthly reporting of the same to the Kansas Immunization Program (KIP). Twice daily monitoring and recording of temperatures allows the provider and KIP to know if temperature excursions occur at these “snapshots” in time. *Manually recording temperatures is still a requirement based on the CDC VFC regulations.*

Providers:

1. Please record each storage unit's temperatures once in the morning (AM) when the clinic opens and once in the afternoon (PM) just before closing using the same temperature log you have been using. These records will be kept in your clinic on-file for 3 years and will be monitored by KIP nurses during VFC site reviews.
2. The month the data logger is installed, the clinic submits their paper temperature logs. This will allow the adjustment period noted above and will provide for a full month of temperature recording using one process versus two.
3. The month following the installation and set up of the data loggers, providers will download the TT4 monitors monthly by the 10th of the month, to the secure Cold Stream data base. KIP program staff will now be able to view your report electronically eliminating the need for paper submittals. We look forward to assisting you through this transition that will ultimately decrease your workload and provide you with a better, more effective system of monitoring vaccine storage temperatures.

Thank you for your cooperation and for being our partner in improving immunization practices that assures Kansas children are vaccinated with viable vaccines. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Froetschner at: 785-925-1990 or mfroetschner@kdheks.gov.

Martha Froetschner, RN, BSN
Assistant Program Director
785-925-1990
mfroetschner@kdheks.gov
Enclosure

NOTE:

Sensitech has graciously agreed that our VFC providers may purchase additional TT4 monitors at KIP cost of \$100.00 each. We can discuss this in detail if you like once the clinic has become acclimated to using the TT4 monitors.